

IL 131 Green Bay Road Project Public Hearing Summary

Executive Summary

The Public Hearing for the Illinois Route 131 (IL 131) Green Bay Road Project was held on Thursday, November 16, 2017 at Beach Park Middle School 40667 N. Green Bay Road in Beach Park, Illinois from 4 to 7 PM, and was conducted in an open house format. The meeting was attended by 86 people. At total of 22 people provided comments to the court reporter at the hearing, through the project website, in the Public Forum, or filled out a comment form.

Overview

The IL 131 project stretches for 7.3 miles from Russell Road at the Wisconsin/Illinois state line to Sunset Avenue. The project is in portions of the City of Zion, Village of Wadsworth, Village of Beach Bark, City of Waukegan, Benton Township, Newport Township and Waukegan Township in northeastern Lake County, Illinois.

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is managing the IL 131 project in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Alternatives for improving IL 131 were developed through the IDOT's Phase I study process, context sensitive solutions (CSS), and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process to involve local stakeholders early and often in the decisions about the project.

IL 131 is a Strategic Regional Arterial (SRA) and part of the National Highway System. This means that IL 131 serves as a key north-south route which supplements the expressway system by moving long-distance, high-volume automobile and commercial vehicle traffic in northeastern Illinois. The existing IL 131 roadway is two lanes with turn lanes at major intersections throughout the project area. The existing land use is industrial and agricultural between Russell Road and Illinois Route 173 (Rosecrans Road). The land use changes to mostly single-family residential and commercial between IL 173 and Sunset Avenue. The project area also includes several recreational areas, public facilities, and the Waukegan National Airport.

The general scope of work for this improvement consists of reconstructing Illinois Route 131 to provide two lanes in each direction separated by a median, as well as accommodations for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Kenosha Road Project

Improvements at Kenosha Road have been advanced to address some of the more pressing needs previously heard from the public.



The general scope of work for this break out improvement consists of re-aligning Kenosha Road to the north to improve the visibility and safety of the intersection at Illinois 131, installing traffic signals, and constructing a median on Illinois 131 between 29th Street and north of the realigned Kenosha Road to accommodate turn lanes.

IDOT is currently in the process of finalizing Phase II, contract plan preparation and land acquisition. This improvement is included in the Department's FY 2018-2023 Proposed Highway Improvement Program. Our current engineering efforts are targeted to enable a contract letting in the early years of our current multi-year program contingent upon plan readiness, land acquisition, and funding availability through our future annual legislative appropriations.

Meeting Content

The purpose of the hearing was to present the preferred alternative, the Environmental Assessment (EA), Section 4(f) impacts to the Waukegan Sports Center, and obtain public input during the Public Hearing including at the Public Forum at 6 PM.

There were two rooms, one which contained a continuous audio-visual presentation that included information regarding the project overview, Preferred Alternative, and EA.

The second room contained exhibit boards, roll plot aerial maps, court reporter and comment tables. The boards provided information regarding the project overview, Phase I study process, Illinois Complete Streets Law, noise wall information, environmental resources, Section 4(f) impacts, stakeholder outreach initiatives and the Preferred Alternative.

Attendees were provided an opportunity to speak with project team members. Comment forms were provided, as well as the opportunity to make comments electronically. Attendees were encouraged to provide comments to a court reporter before or at the Public Forum at 6 PM. All public hearing materials were posted to the website that evening and the roll plot of the corridor was posted the beginning of the following week.

Identification of Stakeholders

Per Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) procedures, a stakeholder is anyone who could be affected by the project and has a stake in its outcome. The identification of stakeholders was completed through online searches and input from local community leaders. Stakeholders were categorized by specific areas of interest such as transit and transportation agencies, counties, municipalities, elected officials, legislators, local businesses, libraries, media, schools, churches, homeowner associations, property owners, public services, and utility agencies. Stakeholders helped the IDOT further understand the needs and concerns about the proposed improvement and project area. This input from the project stakeholders and the public was vital to the decision-making process of the project.

New stakeholders were continuously added throughout the project to the initial stakeholder list. All stakeholders expressing interest in the project were added to the project mailing list and able to participate in the process through various public outreach opportunities.



Representatives from the following communities and county were in attendance:

- · City of Waukegan
- Village of Beach Park
- Village of Wadsworth
- · City of Zion
- Lake County Council of Mayors
- Illinois 61st District State Representative
- Lake County Board

Several businesses were represented, including:

- Hanson Professional Services Inc.
- Waukegan National Airport
- Anderson Farm Orchard
- · Grinus Ent.
- Gowan Oaks
- · Cleveland Corp.
- USPS Waukegan

Agencies/organizations represented included:

- Pace Bus
- Waukegan Park District
- Federal Aviation Administration
- United States Postal Service
- Zion Park District
- Lake County Department of Transportation
- Lake County Forest Preserve District
- Lake County Storm Water Management

What we heard

- · Can you provide our village (Wadsworth) the final working drainage plan?
- It would be nice to see a deceleration lane going into Shepherd's Crook Golf Course heading northbound.
- Need to only have sidewalk on one-side of the roadway
- Who will pay for the underground utilities to be moved?
- · Median with curbs is not necessary
- Who maintains the grassy median area?
- So, this is a lot of public money from the municipalities that's certainly not budgeted, certainly not affordable to the municipalities of Zion and Beach Park
- Barrier median will devaluate property



- Overall opposed to project
- Who will pay for the connection to Zion water system?
- Would like to see roundabouts used at Green Bay Road at 29th Street and Green Bay Road at 33rd Street, as well as other major streets
- Issues with school buses causing delays at 29th Street
- Horse trails need access to property at 1500 and 1600 on Green Bay Road;
 median needs to be opened in front of property instead of a U-turn
- Why is there a need for a shared-use path/bike path/sidewalk on Green Bay Road in an industrial zone?
- Raised median will destroy business
- · Sidewalks and multi-use path is not necessary
- Issues with garage and driveway configuration, elevation and access
- The engineers are doing a great job on what they are doing. I just need to see it happen. We want to get it going.
- I am concerned about the traffic flow out of our facility Advanced Disposal Zion Landfill. Please consider installing a traffic signal at this intersection
- Impacts to gas monitoring and watermains

Public Involvement Efforts

Through the CSS process, stakeholders were notified of the public hearing through a variety of ways.

Classified Ad:

A classified ad (Page 6) in English and Spanish notifying the public of the Public Hearing and included the purpose of the hearing, a description of the meeting format, Environmental Assessment (EA), and contact information. The classified ad ran in the following newspapers:

Publication	Туре	Run Date(s)
Lake County News Sun	Monday-	November 1, 2017
·	Saturday	November 8, 2017
Hoy	Friday	November 3, 2017
		November 10, 2017
Zion-Benton Express	Weekly	November 1, 2017
	(Wednesday)	November 8, 2017
Lake County Journal	Weekly	November 2, 2017
·	(Thursday)	November 9, 2017
Kenosha News	Daily	November 1, 2017
		November 8, 2017

Postcard Invite:

Postcards (Page 7) were sent out in English and Spanish to approximately 800 stakeholders on November 2, 2017.



Brochure:

A brochure (Page 8) provided updates on the study and information regarding the Public Hearing. Copies of the brochure were made available at the meeting and on the project website. The following article topics were included:

- Purpose and Need
- Preferred Alternative
- Environmental Effects
- Waukegan National Airport Coordination
- Ways to Comment

- Planning Process
- Key Features and Benefits
- Stakeholder Involvement
- Land Acquisition
- Next Steps

Website:

A Public Hearing announcement was also posted on the project website on November 1, 2017.

3rd Party Outreach:

An email (Page 9) included a copy of the Public Hearing classified advertisement and the postcard invite in English and Spanish. They were asked to attach the information to their website or send out via e-news.

The email was sent to the following:

- Sam Cunningham, Mayor, City of Waukegan
- Al Hill, Mayor, City of Zion
- Dan Kloczkowski, Chairman, Gurnee Chamber of Commerce
- Jose Rodriguez, Chair, Hispanic Chamber of Lake County
- J. Rober Reyes, President, LA Nueva Semana
- Kevin Considine, President and CEO, Lake County Partners
- Megan McKenna, Executive Director, Mano o Mano
- Jacque Beltran, Pastor, Most Blessed Trinity Parish
- Myra Gaytan-Morales, Assistant Dean for Academic Services and Programs, University Center of Lake County
- Jon Kindseth, Village Administrator, Village of Beach Park
- Kristina Kovarik, Mayor, Village of Gurnee
- John Steinbrink, President, Village of Pleasant Prairie
- Moses Amidei, Village Administrator, Village of Wadsworth
- Michael Bruno, Mayor, Village of Winthrop Harbor
- David Villalobos, Alderman, Waukegan's 4th Ward
- Ann Taylor, Alderman, Waukegan's 9th Ward
- Rich Coombe, President, Winthrop Harbor Chamber of Commerce



Classified Advertisement

<u> Fransportatio</u> ois Department of

The Illinois Department of Transportation invites you to attend the public hearing concerning the improvement of IL 131 from Russell Road to Sunset Avenue in Lake County.

Date: November 16, 2017

Time: 4 - 7 p.m. Location: Beach Park Middle School 40667 N Green Bay Road Beach Park, IL 60099

Purpose of the hearing:

- To present the preferred alternative and the Environmental Assessment (EA)
- To present Section 4(f) impacts to the Waukegan Sports Center
- To obtain public input

This hearing is an open house format. You are welcome to stop by anytime from 4-7 p.m. Exhibits will be on display, and an audio-visual presentation will be shown continuously during the meeting. A Public Forum will begin at 6 p.m., where the public will be invited to make a statement to a court reporter. Project team members will be present to discuss the project and answer questions.

The EA has been completed and will be presented at the public hearing. The EA describes the purpose and need of the proposed project, alternatives considered, the recommended preferred alternative, anticipated environmental impacts, project benefits, and potential mitigation measures. It will be available for public review and comment on the project website at www.IL131Project.com, Zion-Benton Public Library District, Waukegan Public Library, the municipalities in the study area, and the Department's District One office in Schaumburg. A complete list of these locations can be found on the project website. Comments will be accepted through December 16, 2017.

This hearing will be accessible to people with disabilities. Anyone needing special assistance should contact Lori Brown, PE, at (847) 705-4477. Persons planning to attend who will need a sign language interpreter or other similar accommodations should notify the department's TTY/TTD number (800) 526-0844/or 711; TTY users (Spanish) (800) 501-0864/or 711; and Telebraille (877) 526-6670 at least five (5) days prior to the meeting.

Written comments can be submitted through the project website: www.IL131Project.com.

Iransportatio linois Department of

PUBLIC HEARING

El Departamento de Transportación de Illinois te invita a asistir la audiencia pública en referencia a las mejoras en IL 131 desde Russell Road hasta Sunset Avenue en el Condado de Lake.

Fecha: 16 de Noviembre de 2017

Hora:

Lugar:

4 - 7 p.m. Beach Park Middle School 40667 N Green Bay Road Beach Park, IL 60099

Propósito de la audiencia:

- Presentar la alternativa preferida y la Evaluación Ambiental (EA)
- Presentar los impactos a la Sección 4(f) del Centro de Deportes de Waukegan
- Obtener la opinión del publico

Esta reunión tendrá un formato abierto. Eres bienvenido a llegar en cualquier momento entre las 4-7 p.m. Habrá exhibiciones y una presentación audio-visual que se estará mostrando de manera consecutiva durante la reunión. Un foro público comenzará a las 6 p.m., en donde el público está invitado a expresarse frente a un reportero de la corte. Los miembros del equipo de trabajo del proyecto estarán presentes para discutir detalles del proyecto y responder sus

El documento EA ha sido completado y será presentado en la audiencia pública. El EA describe el propósito del proyecto propuesto, las alternativas consideradas, la alternativa preferida recomendada, los impactos ambientales anticipados, los beneficios del proyecto, y las posibles medidas de mitigación de impacto. Este documento estará disponible para la revisión y comentarios del público en la página web del proyecto www.IL131Project.com, la Librería Publica del Distrito de Zion-Benton, la Librería Publica de Waukegan, en las municipalidades en el área del proyecto, y en la Oficina del Distrito Uno del Departamento en Schaumburg. Una lista completa de estas localizaciones puede ser encontrada en la página web del proyecto. Los comentarios del público serán aceptados hasta el 16 de Diciembre de 2017.

Esta audiencia será accesible para personas discapacitadas. Cualquier persona que necesite asistencia especial puede comunicarse con Brenda L. Alicea, PE, al (847) 705-4107. Personas que planifiquen asistir y necesiten un intérprete de lenguaje en seña o cualquier necesidad similar debe notificarlo al menos 5 días antes de la reunión al número TTY/TTD del Departamento (800) 526-0844/ ó 711; TTY (Español) (800) 501-0864/ ó 711; Telebraille (877) 526-

Comentarios escritos pueden ser sometidos a través de la página web del Proyecto: www.IL131Project.com





Postcards Invite

You are invited to attend a

Public Hearing



concerning the proposed improvement of Illinois Route 131 from Russell Road to Sunset Avenue in Lake County. The scope of work for this improvement is anticipated to consist of widening and reconstructing IL 131 between Russell Road and Sunset Avenue to provide two lanes in each direction separated by a raised median, intersection and drainage improvements, and pedestrian and bicycle improvements.

Thursday, November 16, 2017 4:00 – 7:00 P.M. Beach Park Middle School 40667 North Green Boy Road Beach Park, Illinois 60099

Jueves 16 de Noviembre de 2017 4:00 – 7:00 P.M. Beach Park Middle School

Beach Park Middle School 40667 North Green Bay Road Beach Park, Illinois 60099 Usted está invitado a asistir a la

Audiencia Pública



en referencia a las mejoras de **Illinois Route 131 desde Russell Road hasta Sunset Avenue en el Condado de Lake.** Las mejoras propuestas para este proyecto están anticipadas en consistir del ensanche y reconstrucción de IL 131 desde Russell Road hasta Sunset Avenue para proveer dos carriles en cada dirección separadas por un terraplen elevado, mejoras a intercesiones y drenaje, y mejoras a las facilidades de peatones y ciclistas.

Interested persons may attend anytims between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. bithits will be on display, and an audiostical presentation will be shown continuously during the hearing. Project team members will be present to discuss the project and answer questions. A public forum will begin at 6:00 p.m., where the public will be institled to make a statement to a court reporter. Right of way acquisition and relocation assistance information will be available. Spanish speaking team members will be available to

The Environmental Assessment (EA) document has been completed and will be presented at the public hearing. The EA describes the purpose and need, attendates, the preferred alternative, environmental imposts, benefits, and mitigation measures. The EA can be viewed on the project website IL131Project.com, muritipatities and libraries in the study area, and at the IDDT District One Office. Comments will be accepted through December 16, 2017.

Las personas interesarlas pueden llegar en cuelquier momento entre las 400 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Habrá extribidones y una presentación audio-visal que se estará mostrando de manera consecutiva durante la reunión. Los miembros del equipo de trabajo del proyecto estarán presentes para discutir detalles del proyecto y esponder sus preguntas. Un foro público comenzará a las 6 p.m., en donde el público está initato a expresarse friera e un reporter de la corte. Homoradón referera e a la sentidiumbre de paso y redocalizaciones estará disportible. Habrá miembros del equipo de trabajo que podrán contestar sus pregintas en resparid de ser necesario.

El documento de Evaluación Ambiernal (EA) ha sido completado y será presentado en la audienda pública. El EA describe el propésito del proyedo propuesto, las alternativas consideradas, la alternativa preferida, los impactos ambiernativas ambienados, los berrelitos del proyecto, y las posibles medidas de mitigación de impacto. Este documento puede ser localizado en la pégina web del proyecto ILI31Projecto com, en las municipalidades y liberals localizadas en el área del estudio, y en la Oficina del Distritto Uno del Departamento Los comentarios serán aceptados hasta el 16 de Diciembre de 2017.

Purpose of the hearing:

- To present the preferred alternative and the Environmental Assessment (EA) document
- To present Section 4(f) impacts to the Waukegan Sports Park
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Propósito de la audiencia:

- Presentar la alternativa preferida y el documento de Evaluación Ambiental (EA)
- Presentar los impactos a la Sección 4(f) del Centro de Deportes de Waukegan
- Obtener la opinión del publico

Contact Information:

Illinois Department of Transportation 201 W. Center Court * Schaumburg, IL 60196 Attn; Lori Brown, P.E. or submit via the project website IL131Project.com

This hearing will be accessible to people with disabilities. Anyone needing special assistance should contact Lori Brown, P.E. at (847) 705-4477, Persons planning to attend who will need a sign language interpreter or other similar accommodations should notify the department TVTTD rundre (800) 350-046401; T1; TY scors (Spanish) (800) 501-0864007 711; and Telebriallie (877) 536-6670 at least faw (5) days prior to the meeting.

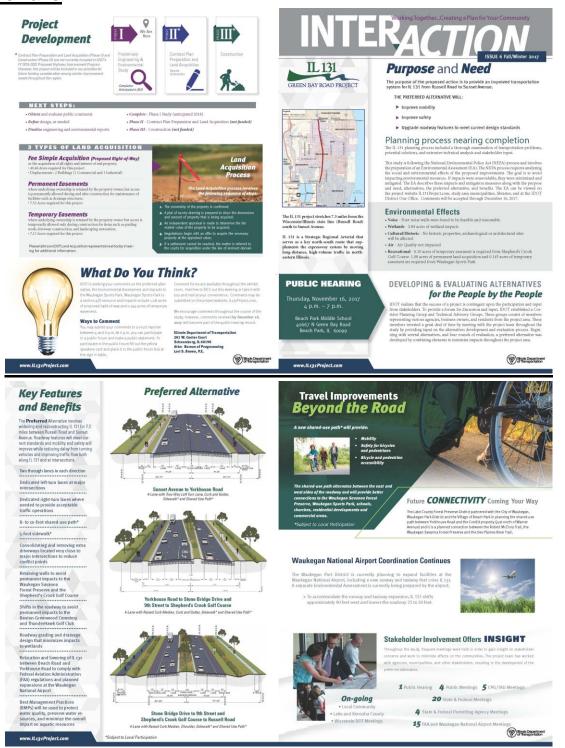


Illinois Department of Transportation Office of Highways Project Implementation - District One 201 W. Center Court Schaumburg, Illinois 60196





Brochure





Third Party Outreach Email

Cathy Valente

From: Cathy Valente

Sent: Friday, November 03, 2017 8:41 AM

Cc: Cathy Valente

Subject: IL 131 (Russell Road to Sunset Avenue) Lake County, IL

Attachments: 2017-10-20 PH Ad IDOT-Spanish_FINAL.pdf; 131_PH_postcard_103117_FINAL.pDF; 2017-10-20 PH

Ad IDOT- English_FINAL.pdf

Categories: Red category

Good morning,

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is in the process of completing a Phase I Preliminary Engineering & Environmental Study for the proposed improvement of Illinois Route 131 from Russell Road to Sunset Avenue in Lake County. The scope of work for this improvement is anticipated to consist of widening and reconstructing IL 131 between Russell Road and Sunset Avenue to provide two lanes in each direction separated by a raised median, intersection and drainage improvements, and pedestrian and bicycle improvements.

The Public Hearing is scheduled for Thursday, November 16, 2017 at Beach Park Middle School, 40667 N. Green Bay Road, Beach Park, Illinois. Interested persons may attend anytime between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Exhibits will be on display, and an audiovisual presentation will be shown continuously during the hearing. Project team members will be present to discuss the project and answer questions. A public forum will begin at 6:00 p.m., where the public will be invited to make a statement to a court reporter. Right-of-way acquisition and relocation assistance information will be available. Spanish speaking team members will be available to answer questions.

The purpose of the hearing is to present the preferred alternative and the Environmental Assessment (EA) document, present Section 4(f) impacts to the Waukegan Sports Park, and to obtain public input.

Attached to this email you will find the ad displays in English and Spanish and the Postcard Invite that went to 800 stakeholders in the study area. At this time I am asking that you attach this information to your website, or perhaps include it in an e-news if you have one scheduled to be sent to members of your community.

Thank you for your assistance in making this information available to the public. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (630) 510-3944, ext. 104, and see you on the 16th!

Cathy

Cathy Valente, Director of Operations

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public involvement + strategic communication + planning

1250 E. Diehl Road, Suite 401 Naperville, IL 60563

T 630.510.3944 x104 **F** 630.701.7648 **M** 847.217.5004

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Photographs from the Public Information Meeting:

